Representations from Mobile Service Operators over hike in Tariff

1170. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Telecom Commission has so far made any detailed examination of the representations received from the mobile service operators on call charges;

(b) whether Government propose to make any changes in tariff which has taken effect from 15th December, 1997 indicating details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the TRAI has been formed/set up and the matter referred to it as per assurance given by Government to Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) over hike in tariffs, if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) to (c) The matter was subjudice and the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, in it's judgement, has directed the petitioners (Cellular Operators Association of India) to represent their case for further decision to Telecom. Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). TRAI has been recently constituted vide Gazette Notification No. 103 dated 20.2.97.

Standardisation of New Digital Electronic Switching Equipment Technology

1171. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DEPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that since 1992, the DOT & MTNL have standardised six New Digital electronic Switching equipment technologies besides two existing E 10B & C-DOT;

(b) if so, the names and sources thereof;

(c) the number of lines of each of the eight technologies ordered by DOT & MTNL and lines commissioned during 1993-94, 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97; and

(d) the details regarding the hardware and software maintenance and upgradation of the exchanges to the new technologies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per statement-I (*see* below)

(c) As per statement-I and statement-II (*see* below).

(d) For E 10B Technologies, Department of Telecom has already set up an organisation called National Centre for Electronic Switching to provide hardware and soft-ware support in cooperation with Telecom, Engineering Centre. For C-DOT Technology, repair within DOT circles and software support is provided by TEC & C-DOT.

For other new technology switches, the support is being provided by the vendors and 3 years requirement of spares is already obtained.